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# Message Text

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43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /096 W
---------- 091015
R 171422 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9555
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFF CIAL USE LAGOS 3952

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR, NI, OAU, XF
SUBJECT: NIGERIA, OAU, MIDDLE EAST

REF: LAGOS 3737

1. AT MAY 16 PRESS CONFERENCE JUST PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR OAU CM MEETING, FMG COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARIKPO PUBLICLY REJECTED QADDAFI PROPOSAL FOR SUMMIT BOYCOTT AND TRANSFER OF OAU HQ IN UNMISTAKABLY STRONG TERMS.

2. ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNT, ARIKPO TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT NIGERII " WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY ATTEMPT BY ANY GROUP OF OAU MEMBERS TO BLACKMAIL THE ORGANIZATION INTO ACTION ON ISSUES AFFECTING THEIR OWN INTEREST." THREATS RATHER THAN PER-SUSSION, HE CONTINUED, WOULD NOT BE IN OAU INTEREST. " OAU HQ WAS ESTABLISHED IN ADDIS ABABA WITH CONSENSUS OF MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATION, " ARIKPO SAID, " AND CAN ONLY BE REMOVED STRICTTLY BY SAME PROCESS. NIGERIA HAS NO REASON TO SUPPORT REMOVAL OF OAU HQ FROM ADDIS ABABA UNLESS THE AGITATORS CAN OFFER CONVINCING REASON FOR IT." ARIKPO CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE " TRAGIC" TO PERMIT " A FEW MEMBERS OF OAU TO FORCE THEIR WILL ON THE MAJORITY."
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3. COMMENT: SHARP TONE OF ARIKPO REMARKS IS CONSIDERABLE DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL FMG PRACTICE OF SPEAKING SOFTLY ON AFRICAN ISSUES AND SEEKING ABOVE ALL TO AVOID GIVING OFFENSE. QADDAFI' S DIVISIVE TACTICS HAVE CLEARLY

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HIT VERY SENEITIVE NERVE IN NIGERIA, WHICH ATTACHES GREAT
IMPORTANCE TO OAU AS FORUM FOR AFRICAN UNITY ( AND EXERCISE
OF NIGERIAN LEADERSHIP). JUDGING FROM VIGOR OF ARKPO
BROADSIDE, WE WOULD EXPECT NIGERIANS TO TREAD WARILY
IN QUICKSAND OF MIDDLE EAST DEBATE AT OAU SESSIONS AND TO
LOOK WITH JAUNDICED EYE ON ANY ARAB PROPOSALS FOR STRONGER
ANTI- ISRAELI MEASURES.
REINHARDT

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# Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, NI, OAU, XF
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